

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A blind comprising

- a longitudinally extending hollow upper rail having an open left end and an open opposite right end; and

- a longitudinally extending lower rail having an open left end and an open opposite right end; and

- a blind material attached to the upper rail and the lower rail and extendable between them and in which the upper rail, the lower rail or both are movable; and

- a left and a right guide cord extending parallel to each other from the upper rail to the lower rail, the left guide cord entering the lower rail by the left end and the right guide cord entering the lower rail by the right end, and wherein the first and second guide cords cross over in the lower rail such that the left guide cord exits the lower rail at the right end and the right guide cord exits the lower rail the left end; and

- each guide cord being operatively connected to a cord tensioner; wherein each cord tensioner comprises a compression spring through which the guide cord extends;

and wherein both cord tensioners are fixed in the upper rail or the lower rail of the blind each in a dedicated longitudinal position while allowing compression of the spring.

23. (previously presented) The blind of claim 22, wherein the cord tensioner further comprises a housing for containing the spring.

24. (currently amended) The blind of claim 23, wherein the housing comprises a hollow longitudinally-extending interior space having a diameter slightly larger than the spring in which the spring can be accommodated, an abutment member against which the spring can be compressed by the cord when it is tensioned, and an opening, through which the cord can enter the interior space longitudinally, the abutment member being located within the opening.

25. (previously presented) The blind of claim 24 wherein the interior space of the housing is cylindrical with a diameter greater than the diameter of the spring and a length that is at least equal to the length of the spring.

26. (previously presented) The blind of claim 24 wherein the abutment member is an inturned rim of the housing at a longitudinal end thereof.

27. (previously presented) The blind of claim 24, wherein the cord tensioner further comprises an attachment member for engaging the guide cord with the spring; the attachment member being mounted inside the housing in engagement with the spring and having a diameter larger than the diameter of the spring.

28. (previously presented) The blind of claim 27, wherein the attachment member includes longitudinally-extending cord grooves, along which the guide cord can slide longitudinally.

29. (previously presented) The blind of claim 27, wherein the attachment member includes a rotatable cord pulley.

30. (previously presented) The blind of any one of claims 22-29 wherein the cord tensioner is fixed in the upper rail and the upper rail is a fixed rail.

31. (previously presented) The blind of any one of claims 22-29 wherein the cord tensioner is fixed in the lower rail and the lower rail is a movable rail.